



## COUNCILMEMBER CARL DEMaIO

FIFTH DISTRICT  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2010  
TO: Sustainable Energy Advisory Board  
FROM: Councilmember Carl DeMaio  
RE: Solar Fees

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It has been brought to my attention that recent fee increases in the Development Services Department are serving as a disincentive to residents and businesses to install solar technology.

This is a concern and, while I did not support the fee increases, suspect this was not the intent of the City Council. I have attached a few emails I have received regarding this issue. It would be beneficial if the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board would review these concerns and make recommendations to address the problem if it is determined that such a disincentive does exist.

Thank you for your service and expertise. I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

jgsoames@aol.com [jgsoames@aol.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 5:51 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

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Mayor Jerry Sanders  
Email: [JerrySanders@sanidiego.gov](mailto:JerrySanders@sanidiego.gov)

District 1 Councilmember Sherri Lightner  
Email: [sherrilightner@sanidiego.gov](mailto:sherrilightner@sanidiego.gov)

District 2 Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer  
Email: [kevinfaulconer@sanidiego.gov](mailto:kevinfaulconer@sanidiego.gov)

District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria  
Email: [toddgloria@sanidiego.gov](mailto:toddgloria@sanidiego.gov)

District 4 Councilmember Tony Young  
Email: [anthonyyoung@sanidiego.gov](mailto:anthonyyoung@sanidiego.gov)

District 5 Councilmember Carl DeMaio  
Email: [carldemaio@sanidiego.gov](mailto:carldemaio@sanidiego.gov)

District 6 Councilmember Donna Frye  
Email: [donnafrye@sanidiego.gov](mailto:donnafrye@sanidiego.gov)

District 7 Councilmember Marti Emerald  
Email: [martiemerald@sanidiego.gov](mailto:martiemerald@sanidiego.gov)

District 8 Councilmember President Ben Hueso  
Email: [benhueso@sanidiego.gov](mailto:benhueso@sanidiego.gov)

Dear Mayor Sanders and Elected Officials of San Diego,

I am a resident who has invested in the future of San Diego's power independence and long term sustainability by installing a solar electric system at my home. However, I am writing to protest the new proposed fees for standard permit/plan issuance and, in addition, the "expedite fees" you are planning to instigate that will negatively impact the residents of San Diego at large by discouraging those who are considering going solar in the future. This is an appallingly regressive move. I encourage you to re-think your proposed course of action, particularly in view of the loss of business activity and the taxes derived therefrom that will easily offset the proposed new fees.

The City of San Diego was recently named top solar city in the nation, a position San Diego should be incentivizing and catalyzing and not one viewed as an opportunity to levy onerous new taxes. Placing additional regressive taxes on citizens and businesses that are disposed to install solar photovoltaic systems to aid the city's power consumption and sustainability clearly places you as representatives of San Diego City as one that is not serious about the environmental issues we face.

Please reconsider the solar photovoltaic price hikes by making the technology more feasible to obtain by all, by creating incentives rather than barriers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Concerned Solar Homeowners

## Message from a constituent about Solar fees

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2009 4:49 PM

**To:** Faulconer, Council Member Kevin; Lightner, Councilmember Sherri; Councilmember Todd Gloria; Young, Anthony; DeMaio, Councilmember Carl; Frye, Donna; Emerald, Councilmember Marti; Hueso, Council President Ben; info@sullivansolarpower.com

Gentlemen and ladies of the San Diego City Council,

This subject is very important to me, and to our future generations.. In these times of growing population and warming of the earth, it is a most compelling and serious matter for us all to be using energy that is renewable and does not cause further warming and pollution of our planet.

Solar, wind, water and geothermal energy can provide the entire planet with all of its energy needs; a recent issue of Scientific American can provide you with the actual science and analysis. My position is that all governments should enlist available incentives to promote the installation of these generating mechanisms, and Solar needs incentives to take its place among these key technologies. In my own small manner, I am contributing to this most worthy cause, not only for my own children, but for yours as well. Taxes, subsidies and other governmental actions can promote or discourage adoption of clean and renewable energy sources; I hope you will adopt those tools you control to help all of us living today, and those of our yet unborn.

I am a resident who has declared energy independence by installing a solar electric system on my home. However, I am writing to bring a fee increase to your attention that is going to negatively impact residents of San Diego who are considering going solar in the future. The electrical plan check fees for standard permit/plan issuance, in addition to expedite fees have increased substantially.

These costs will be incurred by home and business owners that want to go solar. The City of San Diego was recently named top solar city in the nation, which is something San Diego should be proud of, but not an avenue to create additional roadblocks. Putting costly measures like this in place for solar photovoltaic systems makes the technology, and a sustainable future for our City, appear to be less supported by our government.

Please reconsider the solar photovoltaic price hikes by making the technology more feasible to obtain by all, by creating incentives rather than barriers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Scripps Ranch, San Diego CA 92131  
Concerned Solar Homeowner

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Per ogni esperto vi è un piano di parità e di fronte esperto. [Clarke's Fourth Law]

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(If you're not Italiano, see <http://translate.google.com>)

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[ Sonde straniero mente non riesce a penetrare il suo cappello lamina di stagno ]

## Solar Power Permit Fee Increase

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]@aol.com

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2010 7:08 AM

**To:** DeMaio, Councilmember Carl

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Dear Councilman DeMaio

We are residents who has are planning to install a solar electric system on our home. We are writing to bring a fee increase to your attention that is going to negatively impact residents of San Diego who are considering going solar in the future. The electrical plan check fees for standard permit/plan issuance, i n addition to expedite fees have increased substantially.

These costs will be incurred by home and business owners that want to go solar. The City of San Diego was recently named top solar city in the nation, which is something San Diego should be proud of, but not an avenue to create additional roadblocks. Putting costly measures like this in place for solar photovoltaic systems makes the technology, and a sustainable future for our City, appear to be less supported by our government.

Please reconsider the solar photovoltaic price hikes by making the technology more feasible to obtain by all, by creating incentives rather than barriers.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Scripps Ranch